

Application/Control Number: 10/786,525

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Claim ¹⁹~~16~~: Aeg 12/5/06

--while said lower strap extends around the user's head-- has been inserted in the last line of step d after "...to hold the lower portion against the user's head".

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art made of record does not teach or fairly suggest the method of using a nasal mask having an upper strap and lower strap wherein the upper strap extends around the brow of the user's forehead and the lower strap extends around the user's head continuously prior to the attachment of the nasal mask in a recess. Further, the prior art made of reference does not teach a method of using the recited nasal mask wherein the removal of the nasal mask from the recess retaining the lower strap does not disturb the continuity of the lower strap.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Annette F. Dixon whose telephone number is (571) 272-3392. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday.